I have only to say that this amendment is in accordance with the practice of this House. The Standing Order as well as the procedure of this House are at variance at present. By adopting this amendment we will be making it all the same. It has been the practice of this House that the Government Member should not enjoy a right of reply again after the mover replied.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—On behalf of the Government, I oppose the amendment.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move that a Select Committee consisting of the following Members be appointed:— the Deputy President, the mover of the motion, the Law Member, the Council Secretary, Mr. K. Ayyappan, Mr. Paul Mampilli, and Mr. P. Krishna Menon.

Mr. Joseph Pattah.—I beg to second it.

Motion put and carried.

President.—The Deputy President will be the Chairman and the committee will report within one month.

Resolutions:—(1) Road bridge connecting Parur and Chennamangalam.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, the resolution standing in my name runs thus:—*This Council recommends to the Government to construct a road bridge connecting Parur and Chennamangalam.*

Sir, this is comparatively a local question. My only justification in bringing this resolution is the importance of it. You know that Chennamangalam is a small island and there is absolutely no road connection between the mainland and Chennamangalam. It is a very important village in this respect. When I go through the census report I find that next to the Chittur Taluk and Kumbalangy, this is the most thickly populated village. Not only that, the Government seems to have done very little for the amenities of the public of that place. It appears that the major public utility works have been done by that benevolent Paliath Achen. Excepting probably an Outpost and an Anchal Office, I don't think Government have done anything there. There is not even an inch of Panchayat road maintained in that small island. Recently I find a few culverts put in here and there. Unfortunately in this matter Paliath Achan cannot do much. He cannot construct a bridge. In the first place it is a costly affair and in the second place he cannot do of his own accord. It gives a lot of inconvenience to the public and in these days, when the speedy locomotion is the demand of all from all parts of the public, I think it is just and fair that the Government should provide them with at least a bridge which had

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been the crying need for a very long time. With these few words I move this resolution.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I second it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—On a point of information, I would like to know whether my Hon'ble friend has made any comparative study on the urgent necessity of this item of public work in Cranganur constituency, so as to come to the conclusion that it deserves to be moved in the form of a resolution in this House.

President.—You cannot do so.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—There is provision under the rules.

President.—Please read the rules.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I think the Secretary to the Council will do it better.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Whenever an Hon'ble Member proposes that some work may be done here and some work may be done there, I am sure that some of the non-officials would oppose it. I support this motion.

Sir, it is an absolutely necessary measure and the village which connects it with the mainland is one of the richest villages in the State. But along with that Government has to take into consideration, when they consider this resolution, what are the other places which require bridges. There are several other places where there are no roads, no bridges. So that, the mere fact that this resolution is passed should not make the Government think that it should be done immediately. It should be of comparative importance. I support it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, Government have recognised the necessity for constructing this bridge long ago and we have been corresponding with the Travancore authorities and the Chairman of the Municipality of Parur for helping us in constructing this bridge. For we need the co-operation of the Travancore Government also to get this work done. The last letter that I received from the Chairman of the Municipality of Parur is that they have referred this matter to their Road Board. A reply from that body has not yet been received and I have again written to them after I received this resolution and I am awaiting their reply. In case the Travancore authorities have no objection or will co-operate with us in constructing this bridge, the Government will be only too glad to take up this work.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Help in what way? Is it in the shape of any contribution?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—One side of the bridge is Travancore and the other side is Cochin and we naturally expect a moiety.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—But it is more useful for the Cochin State.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—The Government accepts my resolution. I have nothing to reply.

President.—It will be recorded in the Council Proceedings that the Government have accepted. There should be no withdrawal.

Resolution accepted by Government.

(2) Special Officer in charge of Irrigation.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—"*This Council requests the Government to appoint a Special Officer to be in charge of Irrigation.*"

In moving this resolution I may bring to the attention of this House that from the very inception of this Council we have been asking the Government to devote more attention to irrigation. Although there has been some response from the Government, I should say that the steps taken hitherto by the Government in this direction are not quite satisfactory. I know that the Government have got a division under the P. W. D. for irrigation, but it is a temporary division. It has not been made permanet. In the last budget session a motion was passed to the effect that the Government should have a permanent department or rather a permanent section to look after irrigation. I need not point out to this House, both to the officials and non-officials, the importance of irrigation. It has been stated in the Census Report that about 60 per cent of the population of the State are entirely depending upon agriculture and what the Government have been doing for the agricultural population in the State is too paltry. It has been admitted by the Government this morning that they have not done anything even to find out the possibility of getting a higher price for the agricultural produce in the State. Yesterday in answer to a question of mine about the production of paddy in Cochin, the Government have stated that we are not having sufficient quantity of paddy produced in our State for the consumption of the people in this State. It is therefore very urgent, it is an immediate necessity, that the Government should look into this matter and take measures to see that the paddy cultivation is increased in the State from year to year because the population is increasing as testified to in the Census Report. I also asked the Government in that question whether additional areas had been brought under cultivation in the last ten years. From the answer given to that I find that Government have been able to bring under cultivation only a small additional area. It is about 300 acres only with a period of 10 years from 1921 to 1931—in the year 1921, the land under paddy cultivation was 2,07,389·42 acres and in 1931—2,07,686·47 acres. The increase is quite unsatisfactory when large areas of cultivable land are available. Though I asked the Government to

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